

WHAT'S *New*



in the Metropolitan Police Department

*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, September 8, 2006

SERIOUS CRIME PLUMMETS 19 PERCENT IN AUGUST

The number of serious crimes reported in DC plummeted by more than 19 percent during August, the first full month the District's crime emergency was in effect, preliminary statistics from the MPDC show. Double-digit reductions were recorded in several crime types last month, including homicides (-40%), robberies (-27%), thefts (-23%), thefts from auto (-17%) and stolen autos (-41%). There was a 14 percent reduction in violent crimes and a 21 percent drop in property offenses, resulting in a 19 percent decline in overall crime. The preliminary data show there were nearly 600 fewer serious crimes reported in August 2006 (2,439) than in August 2005 (3,022). The reduction in crime was geographically widespread, with double-digit reductions last month in six of the seven police districts. Both the 4th and 6th Districts experienced crime reductions of 34 percent in August; 1D and 3D — in which crime has risen through much of the year — saw reductions of 21 percent and 13 percent, respectively. Under the crime emergency declared by Chief Ramsey on July 11, the Chief can more easily adjust officers' schedules to combat crime trends and hot spots. To support the emergency, the DC Council overwhelmingly approved legislation providing the MPDC with money to fund police overtime, and allowing for earlier curfew hours and the installation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in DC neighborhoods, among other measures. Year-to-date, crime in DC is up by about one-half of 1 percent, according to preliminary statistics. By comparison, crime was up 4 percent at the end of July.

FEWER YOUNG PEOPLE VICTIMIZED, ARRESTED WITH ALTERNATIVE CURFEW HOURS IN PLACE

A key element of the emergency crime legislation approved by the DC Council in July was granting the Mayor the authority to set alternative curfew hours for young people age 16 and younger as a measure to reduce juvenile crime. Mayor Williams exercised that authority in late July, moving the start of the curfew from 12 midnight to 10 pm, seven nights a week. Recently, the Mayor extended the alternative curfew hours through at least September 28. Preliminary data from the MPDC indicate that the alternative curfew hours appear to be achieving the intended results: fewer young people are getting involved in crime — as either victims or offenders — during curfew hours. For example, since the alternative curfew hours were implemented in late July, the number of curfew-age juveniles victimized by violent crime during curfew hours has fallen 67 percent. In the 36 days prior to the implementation of the new curfew hours, there were 12 violent crime victims age 16 and younger between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am; in the 36 days after the new curfew hours, there were just 4 such violent crime victims. Similarly, arrests of curfew-age juveniles for crimes committed during the alternative curfew hours have declined by 46 percent. While there were 65 arrests in the 36 days prior to the alternative curfew hours, just 35 such arrests were recorded in the 36 days that followed. Since Chief Ramsey declared the crime emergency on July 12, more than 2,400 young people have been processed for curfew violations; more than 1,100 of these occurred between 10 pm and 12 midnight. By contrast, there were fewer than 900 curfew violations (12 midnight-6 am) during the same period of 2005.

① View the latest preliminary crime statistics — for each police district and the city as a whole — by going to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543329.asp>

① Chief Ramsey this week presented a statistical update on the latest results of the crime emergency. Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/frames.asp?doc=/mpdc/lib/mpdc/about/units/rrd/crime_emergency/CE_powerpoint_0906.pdf

① For background information on the curfew in DC, visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547375,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,1.asp

MPDC ANNOUNCES GUN BUY-BACK ON SEPTEMBER 16

As part of its continuing push to further reduce gun violence by getting illegal firearms out of homes and off the streets, the MPDC is holding a day-long gun buy-back on Saturday, September 16. Residents of DC, as well as Prince George's and Montgomery counties in Maryland, and Arlington County and the city of Alexandria in Virginia, will be eligible to receive up to \$100 in cash for each operational firearm they turn in to police that day. The gun buy-back will take place from 9 am to 7 pm, at three locations: First District Station, 415 4th Street, SW; Sixth District Station, 100 42nd Street, NE, and Seventh District Station, 2455 Alabama Avenue, SE. Payments will be based on the type and operational condition of the weapon surrendered, as follows: \$100 for assault-style rifles and automatic/semi-automatic pistols; \$50 for revolvers, Derringers, rifles and shotguns; and \$10 for air/BB/pellet guns. No payments will be made for firearms that are inoperable. The initiative is funded by \$250,000 earmarked by the DC Council during its July special session in which Councilmembers, by a vote of 12-1, approved emergency legislation to help combat crime in DC neighborhoods.

MPDC CREATES NEW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MANUAL

Neighborhood Watch is a community-based crime prevention program in which neighbors look out for one another's safety, property and homes in a systematic and sustained way. Neighborhood Watch is based on a simple, yet powerful idea: when residents, businesses, clergy, police and other partners look out for the safety of their neighborhood, establish and maintain open lines of communication, and collaborate to resolve problems of crime and disorder, they create safer, friendlier and healthier neighborhoods. To help communities across DC get organized, and establish and maintain successful Neighborhood Watch programs, the MPDC has created a new resource manual. The manual describes the history and philosophy of Neighborhood Watch, and it outlines the organizational steps and resources needed to start and sustain a successful program. The manual includes chapters on why and how to start a Neighborhood Watch. It also details such specific needs as the duties of block captains, developing a phone tree and creating a Neighborhood Watch Tool Kit. The Neighborhood Watch Manual is already posted online on the MPDC Website, and hard copies are being printed. In addition, the MPDC's Policing for Prevention Division will be offering training and technical assistance for communities interested in starting or expanding their Neighborhood Watch efforts.

NEWS & NOTES

Civilian Career Opportunities. The MPDC is currently seeking qualified and committed candidates for a number of challenging civilian positions in the agency. For descriptions and details on these positions, click on <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538142.asp>.

Talk with Chief Ramsey. Chief Ramsey discusses the DC crime emergency and other public safety matters with the public during one upcoming media appearance. On Friday, September 15, from 4-5 pm, the Chief is a guest on News Channel 8's "News Talk" program, hosted by Bruce DePuyt.

Sign Up for News Release Updates. Want to keep up with the latest news from the MPDC? Sign up to receive email alerts on news releases and newsletters posted to the MPDC News Room. To register for the MPDC (or other DC government agencies), go to <http://www.dc.gov/registration/register.asp>

- ① Read the full news release at:
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9607>
- ① Between August 1999 and December 2000, the MPDC conducted three separate gun buy-backs, in which more than 6,200 firearms were recovered. Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,546745,mpdcNav_GID,1541.asp
- ① Access a summary of the manual online at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,560689,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp
- ① Individuals interested in Neighborhood Watch training or technical assistance should email:
jeff.marootian@dc.gov
- ① Neighborhood Watch is a key element of the MPDC's "Policing for Prevention" philosophy of community policing. Learn more at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,3,Q,548411,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 9/8/06
◆ 2006: 119	
◆ 2005: 134	
◆ % Change: -11.2%	
◆ Closure Rate: 50.4% (60 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 9/2/06
◆ Total: 995	
◆ Weapons: 36	
◆ Robbery: 9	
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 12	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 37	
◆ Narcotics: 168	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 9/2/06
◆ Arrests: 57	
◆ Robbery: 5	
◆ Weapons: 0	
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 7	
◆ Curfew Violators: 220	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 9/8/06
◆ September: 30	
◆ August: 240	
◆ 2006 Total: 1,619	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 9/8/06
◆ 2006: 30	
◆ 2005: 30	
◆ % Change: Unchanged	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to KEVIN MORISON, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crimereports.com.

mpdc.dc.gov